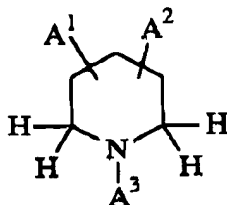


Appl. No. 09/996,657
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

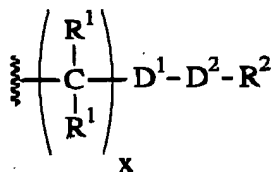
Claims 1-16. (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A compound having the structure:



or an optical isomer, diastereomer, enantiomer, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, or amide, ester, or imide susceptible to being cleaved *in vivo* by a mammalian subject to yield the compound, wherein:

- (a) A^1 and A^2 are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a group having the structure:



with the proviso that at A^1 and A^2 are not both hydrogen atoms, and wherein:

- (i) each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a hydrocarbon group, a substituted hydrocarbon group, a heterogeneous group, a substituted heterogeneous group, a carbocyclic group, a substituted carbocyclic group, a heterocyclic group, a substituted heterocyclic group, an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group, a heteroaromatic group, and a substituted heteroaromatic group;
- (ii) x is 0 or 1;
- (iii) each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of:

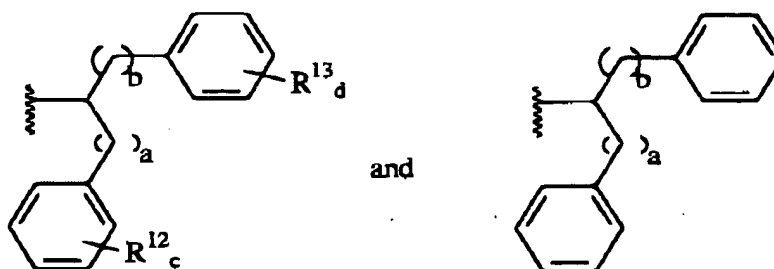
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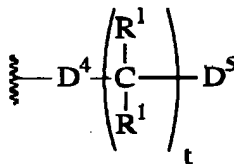


wherein:

- (a) a is at least ~~about~~ 2;
- (b) b is at least ~~about~~ 2;
- (c) c is 1 to ~~about~~ 3;
- (d) d is 1 to ~~about~~ 3; and
- (e) R^{12} and R^{13} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon groups and substituted hydrocarbon groups; and

(iv) D^1 and D^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- and -NH-; with the proviso that wherein when D^1 is -NH- then D^2 is -C(O)-, and wherein when D^2 is -NH- then D^1 is -C(O)-;

(b) A^3 has the structure:



wherein:

- (i) each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl group;
- (ii) t is from 0 to ~~about~~ 6;
- (iii) D^4 is -CH(R^1)-;
- (iv) D^5 is -OR⁶; and
- (v) R^6 is selected from the group consisting of a carbocyclic group, a substituted carbocyclic group, an aromatic group, and a substituted aromatic group.

Claim 18. (Previously added) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein x is 1.

Claim 19. (Previously added) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein x is 0.

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Claim 20. (*Previously added*) The compound according to Claim 19 wherein D¹ is -C(O)- and D² is -NH-.

Claim 21. (*Previously added*) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein D¹ is -C(O)- and D² is -NH-.

Claim 22. (*Previously added*) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein D¹ is -NH- and D² is -C(O)-.

Claim 23. (*Currently amended*) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein τ is 0 to ~~about~~ 2.

Claim 24. (*Previously added*) The compound according to Claim 17 wherein R⁶ is a substituted aromatic group.

Claim 25. (*Previously added*) A composition comprising:

- (a) the compound according to Claim 1; and
- (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 26. (*Previously added*) A method selected from the group consisting of treating multidrug resistance, inhibiting transport protein activity, and combinations thereof, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment or inhibition an effective amount of the composition according to Claim 25.